

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03447 062108Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MCT-01  
/031 W

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R 062005Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8734

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 3447

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/FO; A/SY/CC/TAGS; A/SY/SAS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC, ES  
SUBJECT: DEBRIEFING OF MAURICIO SANDOVAL

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 3334, (B) SAN SALVADOR 3237

1. ON JUNE 28, 1978, MAURICIO SANDOVAL OF MCCANN-ERICKSON, C.A.,

ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SUPERVISOR, ROBERTO AVILA AVILES, VISITED THE  
RSO. SANDOVAL HAD BEEN RELEASED ON JUNE 26, 1978, AFTER NEARLY 100  
HOURS OF CAPTIVITY BY HIS KIDNAPPERS. SANDOVAL WAS INTERVIEWED FOR  
APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF HOUR RE HIS ABDUCTION, TRANSPORTATION FROM  
THE KIDNAP SITE, CAPTIVITY AND SUBSEQUENT RELEASE. HE STATED THAT  
BOTH HE AND HIS SECRETARY (DELMY MAZARIEGO) WERE TAKEN BY FOUR  
MASKED MEN WHILE EXITING HIS OFFICE BUILDING AT APPROXIMATELY 1930  
HOURS ON JUNE 22, 1978. DURING HIS TRANSPORTATION FROM THE KIDNAP  
SITE, HE COULD SENSE THAT HE WAS DRIVEN BY HIS CAPTORS OVER  
A CIRCUITOUS ROUTE IN SAN SALVADOR. HE SENSED HILLS AND  
PAVED/UNPAVED STREETS. THOUGH HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN, HE FELT  
THAT HE WAS TAKEN TO EITHER CIUDAD DE MEJICANOS OR CIUDAD  
DELGADO. HOWEVER, FROM THE MOMENT OF CAPTURE HE WAS BLIND-  
FOLDED AND BOUND. DURING HIS TRANSPORTATION, HE WAS PLACED IN  
THE BACK OF THE SMALL SEDAN BETWEEN HIS CAPTORS. SANDOVAL STATED  
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THAT DURING HIS CAPTIVITY HE WAS HELD IN A SMALL ROOM BUT WAS  
NOT MISTREATED. HE WAS CONSTANTLY QUERIED BY HIS CAPTORS RE HIS  
SALARY AND THE SALARIES OF THE PRINCIPALS OF MCCANN-ERICKSON.  
HE WAS ALSO ASKED DETAILS RE THE VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN OPERATIONS  
OF HIS COMPANY. HE STATED THAT HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS NOT  
AFFLUENT AND COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PAY A SUBSTANTIAL RANSOM.  
WHEN HIS SECRETARY WAS RELEASED HE STATED THAT HE WAS VERY AP-

PREHENSIVE BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT PERHPAS SHE HAD BEEN KILLED.  
HE RECALLED THAT HIS CAPTORS STATED THAT THEY HAD "LOST HER."

WHAT APPARENTLY HAD HAPPENED WAS THAT BECAUSE OF THE EMOTIIONAL  
STRAIN SHE HAD COLLAPSED. THIS, HE STATED, MAY EXPLAIN HER  
PREEMPTORY RELEASE. UNTIL HIS RELEASE HE WAS UNAWARE THAT SHE  
HAD DEFINITELY BEEN RELEASED. HE PROVIDED NO FUTHER DETAILS.  
HE STATEDTHAT HIS RELEASE WAS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED. WHEREAS  
FOUR MEN WERE INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL KIDNAPPING, THREE MEN  
DROVE SANDOVAL TOTHE POINT OF RELEASE.

2. SANDOVAL LEFT FOR A MEETING WITH THE DIRECTORS OF MCCANN-  
ERICKSON IN MIAMI ON JUNE 29 (REF A). UPON HIS RETURN, SANDOVAL  
STATED THAT HE WOULD CONTACT RSO AGAIN FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS  
THAT HE CULD RECALL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780279-0339  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 jul 2005  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2102902  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEBRIEFING OF MAURICIO SANDOVAL  
**TAGS:** ASEC, ES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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